

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE - THE HUMAN FACTOR

1. AUGUST 14 TIMES JOURNAL CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE EXPLAINING SELECTION OF MANILA AS WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CENTER (WPTLC) CONFERENCE SITE. AMBASSADOR AMELITO R. MUTUC, DESCRIBED AS PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS AND DESIGNATED COORDINATOR OF THE MANILA CONFERENCE, IS QUOTED AS POINTING OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PHILIPPINES WAS LOWEST BIDDER AT \$300,000 AMONG RIVALS OF ITALY, MEXICO, WEST GERMANY AND IRAN (THE HIGHEST BIDDER AT 1,000,000), MANILA WAS CHOSEN NOT ONLY BECAUSE LIKE ITS RIVALS IT HAD A BIG AUDITORIUM, HOTELS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS AND A STABLE GOVERNMENT, BUT BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN FACTOR.

2. ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT WHEN WPTLC SECRETARY-GENERAL THOMPSON SURVEYED MANILA AS CONFERENCE SITE, HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH LACK OF EXPECTED MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE STREETS, THE NEW HOTELS (BETTER THAN WASHINGTON'S), THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER, MANILA'S CLEANLINESS, AND THE PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION. ACCORDING TO MUTUC, THOMPSON WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY FACT THAT PHILIPPINES HAS A "RULE OF LAW." THOMPSON REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT THE LEGALITY OF CERTAIN PRESIDENTIAL DECREES WAS BEING QUESTIONED BEFORE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPREME COURT, A SIGN THAT CIVILIAN RULE PREVAILED OVER THE MILITARY DESPITE MARTIAL LAW.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT CONTINUATION OF SUCH SELF-SERVING REPORTAGE OF VISITORS' CASUAL REMARKS WITHOUT REGARD TO CONTEXT.
STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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